GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6118
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2000
SMUGGLING OF GOLD
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the `Dainik Jagran` dated February 17, 2000 captioned `Sone Ki Taskari Mein Custom Afsaron Ki Bhi Chandi` ;

(b) if so, whether now the customs officers give priority to the seizure of gold and electronic items as compared to that of charas, hashish and other narcotics since the reward on these is much more;

(c) if so, the reasons for which the Government give reward to the customs officers on the seizure of these items;

(d) whether the Government propose to abolish this system; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

a): Yes Sir.

(b): No Sir. The field formations and intelligence agencies of Customs engaged in the prevention of smuggling of contraband goods do not make any such distinction while effecting seizures of different items of smuggling.

(c): The reward to Customs officers and informers in cases involving seizures of contraband items like Gold, electronic goods or narcotic drugs as per detailed policy guidelines laid down by the Government, is given essentially as a measure of incentive to motivate them to put in extra special efforts and work, outside the normal call of their duties, and at times at considerable personal risk, to check and detect smuggling/evasion of duties. The reward to officers in seizures of contraband goods is generally based upon the sale value of the goods on disposal after all legal proceedings are over. In the case of narcotic drugs, even though these are ultimately destroyed still a reward scheme based upon the quantum and quality of the seized narcotics is in vogue to motivate the officers and informers in detecting and preventing their illicit trafficking.

(d): No Sir.

(e): There is no proposal to abolish the existing reward scheme as it could act as a serious damper to anti-smuggling and enforcement activities of the concerned Departments. It could demotivate the informers and even officers in unearthing and detecting smuggling and serious commercial frauds and Drug abuse which may endanger Government revenues apart from having serious impact on the health of the economy and even society at large - in drug smuggling/abuse cases, if these go undetected.